

STOCKPORT COUNTY

NEWS & RECORDS 1981-82



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HEAD

TO

HEAD

JIMMY MCGUIGAN
Talks to Paul Brady
Sports Editor,
Messenger Newspapers



I would like to welcome our near neighbours Wigan Athletic, their players, officials and supporters to Edgeley Park tonight for what should be one of the most exciting games of the season.

Of course we have some old friends in the Wigan camp in Chairman Freddie Pye who was Chairman here at Stockport County when I joined the club and Les Bradd who was team captain and top goalscorer here at Edgeley Park last season.

Under the guidance of player/manager Larry Lloyd Wigan have had a tremendous run of results in recent months and they are now challenging for their first ever promotion from Division Four. Although we do not have a good record against Wigan since they joined the Football League, I hope we will be able to provide a halt to their good run tonight.

Last week we were confronted with another of the Fourth Division's 'inform' teams when Port Vale visited Edgeley Park and the match again served to illustrate the lack of experience within our ranks.

We had a great deal of play in that game but Port Vale always showed a sense of purpose and once we got a second half penalty it was obvious where the points would end up.

Our lack of goal power is still our main problem as it has been during recent seasons, but we are not able to go out and buy new players, so we must remedy that problem from the resources currently at our disposal.

Last week saw Martin Fowler return to the side in an attacking role, following the very successful stand-in job that had been done by teenager Wayne Emmerson during Martin's absence from the side due to suspension.

My choice of players for last week's game and the matches immediately before it had been very limited by illness and injury. However, Dave Surley returned to training at the start of this week following a calf injury sustained early in the game against Tranmere Rovers and is likely to be available again tonight if he suffers no reaction while David Booth suffered a very bad mouth infection which meant he could not eat and very quickly lost nine pounds in weight which is now slowly returning as he returns to a normal diet and training.

Long term absentees Steve Uzell and Tommy Sword are also progressing slowly to a return to the first team.



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Edgeley Notebook

compiled by Editor Howard Jones

SPONSORSHIP FROM GORDON FORD

Tonight we welcome our old friends **GORDON FORD**, who have kindly sponsored tonight's visit of Wigan Athletic, the current 4th Division leaders.

WELCOME ALSO TO OUR FORMER CHAIRMAN

I should also like to take this opportunity of welcoming our former Chairman, Mr Freddie Pye to Edgeley Park in his role as Chairman of Wigan Athletic, and our former captain and leading scorer Les Bradd. Welcome gentlemen!

THAT WIGAN BOGEY!

I don't suppose any County fanatic will need reminding of the fact that in NINE, yes 9 previous League clashes between the sides, County have as yet to register their first point, let alone a victory. What better time then than tonight's match for County to pick up three much needed points and to finally lay that 'so called' WIGAN BOGEY.

I GET TRANSFERRED TO ALTRINCHAM!

No it doesn't mean that I will soon be compiling the Altrincham programme, far from it, however if anyone is looking to book their **SUMMER 1982 HOLIDAY**, why not pop in and see me or give me a ring at DEESIDE



INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL (opposite THE DOWNS) on Railway Street, Altrincham, where I have just taken over as Manager of a new Travel Agency. I would like to take this opportunity of offering my services to you all and perhaps also to have a chat about County as well. So don't forget come in and see me anytime you're passing or phone in your Holiday requirements (061-941 1937) and let me take the strain out of your Holiday plans.

THE CENTENARY BROCHURE

My thanks to all those super people who have so far lent me many items of interest for our proposed Centenary publication. I will be writing to you all later in the season to thank you all personally. However I am still looking for more **TEAM PHOTOGRAPHS** of County through the years and would be grateful to anyone who has one tucked away, to let me know which season he or she has. Remember I need your help, to make this brochure a success.



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THE BETTER NAME IN FORD

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS



LARRY LLOYD

Wigan Athletic extended their unbeaten run to a club record 16 League matches when they drew 0-0 at Torquay United recently and now, in only their fourth season since their election to the League, they have an excellent chance of gaining promotion.

If the Springfield Park club does succeed, it will be a wonderful boost for player-manager LARRY LLOYD in his first full season in charge. It's almost a year now since he turned his back on the First Division and international football to accept his new challenge as a player-manager.

Lloyd began his career with Bristol Rovers, but after one season in their first-team he was transferred to Liverpool for

£50,000 in 1969 and it was while he was at Anfield that he gained the first of his four England caps. In 1974 he moved on to Coventry City for £240,000 but when Nottingham Forest bought him two years later they parted with only £60,000. It was at the City Ground that he enjoyed some of his greatest success, winning two European Cup Winners' medals, playing in two successful League Cup finals and picking up a League Championship medal.

The manager has made many changes in the side and today we may see a maximum of five survivors of the team that he inherited — forwards Mike Quinn and Peter Houghton, midfielders Jeff Wright and Mark Wignall, plus defender Colin Methven, though Alex Cribley recently won a recall to first-team duty.

MIKE QUINN developed in the reserve teams at Springfield Park and scored on his League debut against Halifax Town in April 1980. He was a fairly consistent member of the side last season when he was leading scorer with 14 goals.

PETER HOUGHTON joined the club from South Liverpool in 1977 when they were still in the Northern Premier League. He was their leading scorer in their opening two seasons in Division Four, claiming 14 in 1978/79 and 16 the following season. He wasn't always in the team last season when he scored eight times but now he's top scorer again with 13.

JEFF WRIGHT has played more League games for Wigan than any other player currently on the books. He has been with them since their Northern Premier League days.

MARK WIGNALL developed in the reserve teams and made his League bow against Darlington in February last year.

COLIN METHVEN established himself in Scottish football with East Fife, holding down a first-team place for the four years before Wigan signed him for a then club record £30,000 fee in 1979. He has been operating in the middle of the defence since then and was ever-present last season.

ALEX CRIBLEY spent his early days with Liverpool without getting the chance to play in the first-team. He finally left Anfield last October when he signed for Wigan and went straight into their senior side. He can play both in defence and midfield.

Former Stockport striker LESS BRADD will probably line up with Quinn and Houghton in attack. It was with Nottingham, the club he joined from Rotherham United in 1967, that Les made his name, setting up a club scoring record of 125 League goals before joining County in August 1978. Les spent three seasons at Edgeley Park and was our leading goalscorer with 11 last season, before Wigan signed him last summer.

In addition to Wright, Wignall and Cribley, Lloyd's other midfield players include Eamon O'Keefe, Clive Evans, Graham Barrow, Kevin Sheldon and Jimmy Weston.

Wigan recently invested a club record £60,000 when signing EAMON O'KEEFE from Everton. Eamon took a strange route to success, moving from Stalybridge Celtic to Plymouth Argyle, then to Hyde United. Next came a spell in Saudi Arabia before he returned to England to sign for Mossley.

When Everton signed him in June 1979 the £25,000 fee was the second-highest ever paid for a non-League player and it was two seasons ago that he finally made his League debut with the Toffees. Last season he was capped by the Republic of Ireland.

CLIVE EVANS is a winger with an eye for goal. Introduced to Tranmere's League team in 1977, he became their leading scorer in 1978/79. He scored nine times for Tranmere Rovers last season and will be sharply off the mark for his new club with two goals in their opening match of this



League Cup action from last September's Edgeley Park clash between the sides, shows Wigan's Number 11, Clive Evans and Number 3 David Glenn, heading clear from this County attack.

PHOTO COURTESY FLNP.

WIGAN ATHLETIC



WIGAN ATHLETIC LINE-UP 1981-82

Back Row (left to right): Evans, Bradd, Davids, Barrow, Brown, Ward, Methven, Quinn, Houghton, Cnbley. Front Row (left to right): Eyre (Ex-Asst Manager), Sheldon, Wignall, Glenn, Lloyd (Player/Manager), McAdam, McMahon, Wright, Banks (Trainer/Coach).



season.

GRAHAM BARROW caught the eye of many clubs over the past two seasons as a member of the highly-successful Altrincham side in the Alliance Premier League. Wigan ended speculation about his destination by getting his name on the dotted line last summer.

KEVIN SHELDON served his apprenticeship with Stoke City and made more than a dozen appearances in their League side before Wigan signed him last summer.

JIMMY WESTON made his League bow with Blackpool in 1975/76 and moved on to Torquay United in 1980 and signed for Wigan earlier this season.

With player-manager Lloyd and Methven filling the central defensive positions, we could see John McMahon and David Glenn playing full-back.

COUNTY'S LEAGUE RECORD AGAINST WIGAN ATHLETIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Home	3	0	0	3	1	4	0
Away	4	0	0	4	3	9	0
Total	7	0	0	7	4	13	0

FACT FILE ON

WIGAN ATHLETIC

FOUNDED 1932
GROUND: Springfield Park
CHAIRMAN: Mr. F. Pye
MANAGER: Larry Lloyd
NICKNAME: Latics
80-81 TOP SCORER: Quinn M. 15
MANAGERS SINCE WAR: 2
CAPTAIN OF CLUB: Colin Methven
CLUB COLOURS: Blue & White stripes.

JOHN McMAHON is a player of considerable experience. He was Preston's right-back for seven years, making more than 250 League appearances for North End before moving on to Crewe Alexandra in 1979. Wigan signed him last summer.

DAVID GLENN, who has only recently completed his apprenticeship, was introduced to League soccer at the beginning of last season.

Another fairly recent signing is

goalkeeper **ROY TUNKS** who first played in the League with Rotherham United in 1963. While at Millmoor, he spent loan periods with York City, Ipswich Town and Newcastle United before being transferred to Preston North End in 1974. Roy made some 300 first-team appearances for Preston before his latest move.

This is Wigan's second visit to Edgeley Park this season. They beat us 2-1 here in a League Cup tie in September and went on to defeat Aldershot and Chelsea to reach the fourth round for the first time. They eventually lost 1-2 at home to Aston Villa. They took an early exit from the F.A. Cup, losing 0-1 at Hartlepool United in a first round replay.

In the Fourth Division they have won away at Hull City (2-0), Colchester United (2-1), Mansfield Town (2-1), Crewe Alexandra (1-0) and Northampton Town (3-2). They drew at Bradford City (3-3), Tranmere Rovers (0-0), Bournemouth (0-0), York City (0-0), Rochdale (1-1), Port Vale (1-1) and Torquay United (0-0).

Wigan's only two away defeats so far were suffered at Hartlepool United (1-2) and Bury (3-0).

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LEN'S LINES



BY LEN NOAD
Sports Writer
for the
SUNDAY PEOPLE

I tuned in to a Sports programme on my car radio when travelling to a Saturday afternoon match to just hear the words "The football problem is insoluble!"

What a ridiculous statement. On the contrary, it is comparatively easy to solve against all the other problems of the modern world.

For instance, clubs can abide by the rules; honour gentlemen's agreements, not poach manager's behind the club's back, more especially when they already have a manager...and that's something that the Secretaries and Manager's Association should have dealt with firmly years ago.

As for the financial problems; there shouldn't really be one. The clubs have brought it upon themselves. They could set in motion moves to solve it overnight.

For instance, wages in the First Division could be slashed by, at least, a half. Players would still be more than adequately recompensed for their ability. The savings could, partly, be passed on to the spectator.

But an equally big factor is the continuing falling gates. The public have rejected and continue to reject the football clubs idea of what is entertainment.

I said many years ago that we were adopting all the worst traits of Continental football; the public simply won't have it. Even the youngsters who have never experienced the sheer delight of the "W" formation are turning their backs on ninety minutes of midfield muddle.

There was a time when the foreign countries feared our type of football. They don't have to any more. They have dictated the way we play. Even now, the England team are reportedly to be coached along similar lines for their World Cup attempt.

As the teams that will be there can play England's attempts at the Continental defensive system with their eyes shut, it doesn't look like being a very healthy outlook for the home country.

When Manchester United — once the natural home of attacking football — pay a record fee for a midfield player who, frankly, scarcely bears comparison with Henry Cockburn or the late Eddie Colman — and I haven't even mention Duncan Edwards, who had he lived would probably still be playing for England, he would only be 44! — it makes me wonder if there is ever to be any hope of improvement.



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FOURTH DIVISION TALK-IN

CAUTION TO THE WIND

Last weekend's 11 games resulted in 29 goals being scored as teams threw caution to the wind in an effort to capture three valuable points. As the season approaches its last couple of months, a definite dichotomy has developed in the Fourth Division with very few clubs not employed in the challenge of promotion or re-election.

On the promotion front it was Bradford City who did their cause the most good. With leaders Wigan Athletic having a rest from action, City travelled to Layer Road, Colchester, and captured 3 very useful points to close the gap at the top. Bradford are now only 2 points behind Athletic and have 2 games in hand. Conversely, since topping the division at Christmas, Colchester have had several erratic results, and the U's must have been disappointed with this defeat, especially as in their last home game they crushed Sheffield United 5-2.

Bury, lagging in recent weeks, looked to be heading for yet another set-back in their Third Division aspirations, 2-0 down at Darlington with only 20 minutes to go, the Shakers staged a late, late rally as Craig Madden and Co. surged forward. Inevitably, Madden crashed in 2 goals to bring his seasons tally to 27, while full-back Noel Bradley hit his first of the campaign as Darlington's composure shattered. Indeed Bury's Tommy Gore could afford to miss a penalty in a game Jim Ley's team won 3-2.

Bournemouth travelled to Rochdale and recorded their fourth successive win to move up into second spot. However, they too had to work hard for their 1-0 victory, in an entertaining game which either side could have won. After the match Spotted supreme Peter Madden justifiably complained: "The fans must be against us. We deserved something better after playing like that." More worrying for Madden must have been the disappointing attendance of under 1,300, especially as before the match he was moved to say: "Attendances have been so low that it is impossible to keep the club going without money from other sources." The "Dale boss hinted that Rochdale may be forced to sell star players such as Eugene Martinez, (who "could fetch a very substantial fee"), to "keep the flag flying."

Crews' attendances have also plummeted in the last couple of months and it was hardly surprising only 1,600 paid to watch last Friday's visit by Peterborough. United extended their unbeaten league run to 7 games as they took all the points from Greysted Road. Alexandria in stark contrast, have now gone 11 league games without a win. The explanation behind this must be the light-weight attack which has scored only 14 goals all season in 26 games. Crews must wish they had a Craig Madden or a Les Muttie in their forward ranks.

Mutrie's 4 goal scoring blast for Hull against Hartlepool United at Boothferry Park put the home side well on the way to an emphatic 5-2 victory. This was City's biggest win for almost a decade and to cap a miserable day for Hartlepool, their debutants Ken Lowe scored an own goal.

The weekend's shock result was registered at The Old Show Ground however, as Scunthorpe saw off Sheffield United by 2 goals to 1. This game was marred by the sending off of the visitors substitute, Steve Neville, in the 71st minute (only 5 minutes after coming on). Not only did Scunthorpe win, but also the match attracted their highest attendance of the season, (just over 8,000). This figure is 4 times as many as the home side normally play in front of and accounts for over 25% of the total who have visited The Old Show Ground already this season! Obviously, most of the fans were making a trip from Yorkshire and it is interesting to note that this is the 5th time this season, (in 13 visits), Sheffield have played in front of the home sides biggest gate!

Meanwhile, York ended a run of 3 successive defeats as they held Torquay to a 1-1 draw. Making their debuts for the cathedral city's club were Gerry Sweeney and Peter Aiken, two

of the famous 'Ashton Gate Eight.' Elsewhere, Halifax continued their amazing draw sequence with a 0-0 result against Blackpool. (This is the 7th successive stalemate for Town). Northampton remained glued to the bottom of the division after their 2-1 defeat at Hereford and it is hard to believe that they were in the First Division only 17 years ago.

The only other results in a weekend for once dominated by football and not scandal, saw Port Vale record their 7th away win of the season at Stockport, and Mansfield defeat Aldershot 1-0.

TONY JOANNOU.



County's Andy Stafford pictured in action against Tranmere Rovers at Exeter Park on the 15th February.
PHOTO COURTESY FLN.

HOW WE STAND

(Up to and including Saturday, 20th February, 1985)

	P	W	D	L	Pts	A	Fts
Wigan Athletic	28	15	10	3	45	24	56
Bournemouth	27	15	9	3	34	16	54
Sheffield Utd	27	15	8	4	42	22	53
Bradford	27	15	8	4	53	29	53
Peterborough	26	16	5	5	44	24	53
Colchester	26	16	5	5	57	26	50
Bury	26	15	5	6	40	34	50
Port Vale	27	14	8	5	36	30	47
Blackpool	26	12	11	6	39	36	47
Torquay United	27	11	8	8	40	36	47
Hartlepool	27	10	7	10	30	27	37
Reading	26	9	8	11	44	40	35
Tranmere Rovers	27	9	7	11	39	49	34
Mansfield Town	26	7	12	9	29	33	33
Hereford United	26	8	14	11	32	36	32
Hull City	26	7	8	10	38	41	29
Stockport County	26	5	13	7	31	37	28
Derlington	26	8	4	14	39	49	28
Scunthorpe	27	7	7	12	38	40	28
Sheff Wed	27	7	7	13	27	45	28
Rochdale	27	4	14	9	26	42	23
York City	26	4	11	11	22	40	23
Crawley Alexandra	26	5	6	14	30	55	21
Northampton	26	4	4	18	14	44	18
Exeter City	27	3	8	16	30	67	15

PETERBOROUGH UNITED DASH PAST — AND AN OPTIMISTIC FUTURE

by Derek Henderson

older followers of the game, it must seem only a little ago that Peterborough United were elected to the Football League having earned themselves the reputation of cup giant-killers.

In fact, it is 20 years since Posh, as they became to be known, were ushered into the realms of the League after winning the Midland League with such embarrassing ease that they were unbeaten, and actually won 32 out of their 38 games.

Indeed, the members of the Football League could hardly have been at the time, for such was the strength and power of the United team over a five-year period prior to their election in 1931 that they lost only one home game out of a total of 103!

The election was quickly celebrated when Posh took the Football Division by storm and won the championship at the first try with 66 points.

The irony of today's position is that they are now back in the Fourth Division where they began, although they counted themselves a unlucky not to gain promotion last term when they finished fifth and were only three points adrift.



Some Posh followers still feel that the blow which befell the club in 1967-68 was responsible for their present humble position in the League ladder.

That season because of breaches of signing-on and bonus regulations, the club were demoted to Division IV.

However, under the guidance of Noel Cantwell, whose managerial experience was fashioned through five tortuous years with Coventry City, the team won its way back to Division III — in 1973-74, the second time Posh had won the Fourth Division title.

But in 1978-79 back they went down again. However, the hope is that under the control of manager Peter Morris, they will fight their way back again by the time May comes around.

Morris has been at London Road since March 1979 when he succeeded Billy Hails, and follows an impressive list of bosses there which have included Jimmy Hagan, Jack Fairbrother, Gordon Clark, Jim Rley, Cantwell and his No.2 John Barnwell, who later succeeded him and went on to Wolverhampton.

Morris spent nine years with Ipswich Town and then had spells with Norwich and Mansfield before having some success with Mansfield as player-manager.

Under Bill McGarry at Newcastle he had more insight into the managerial business before moving south to guide Peterborough's fortunes.



BACK ROW (left to right): Tony Cliss, Greg Shelton, Dave Syrett, Melvin Gwinnett, Keith Waugh, Tony Smith, Ian Phillips, Trevor Quow. **THIRD ROW** (left to right): Bill Harvey (Physiotherapist), Tim Gale, Campbell Chapman, Trevor Slick, Jackie Gallagher, Stephen Collins, John Winters, Gordon Hodgson, Geoff Butler (Coach). **SECOND ROW** (left to right): Mick Gynn, Robbie Cooke, Steve Massiny, Peter Morris (Manager), Colin Clark, Phil Chard, Billy Kelloock, Billy Rodaway. **FRONT ROW** (left to right): Paddy Payment, Michael Dixon (no longer with the club), Mark Smitheringale, Graham Scarrif (Youth Development Officer), Mario Ippolito, Simon Wilson, Richard Sutton.

What's on Motson?



If you are following John Motson's series on the 1982 World Cup finalists, you will have already read about Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Peru. Now he discusses the prospects for Belgium, who helped edge England out of the 1980 European Championship.....

The "Red Devils" Now Believe In Themselves

Belgium used to have an inferiority complex when it came to world football, mainly because they were nearly always eliminated from major tournaments by their near neighbours and rivals, Holland. But their success in reaching the final of the last European Championship, when they lost in the last minute to West Germany, has enabled them to shake off some of those doubts.

So much so, that Belgium were the first European country to actually **qualify** for the 1982 World Cup finals. And this from a group which not only included Holland, but which was generally regarded as the strongest of the seven European sections because of the added presence of France and the Republic of Ireland.

The Belgians were in the happy position of allowing the three other fancied nations to fight out the second qualifying place. In the meantime, Anderlecht and Standard Liege furthered the growing respect for Belgian football by reaching the quarter finals of the European Cup and Cup-winners cup respectively, while Winterslag put Arsenal out of the UEFA Cup.

All of which was good news for Guy Thys, the genial, English-speaking coach who has

been in charge of Belgium's national side since 1976. Although he lost one of his most talented players, Francois Van der Elst, as soon as the European Championship ended, he has sensibly kept together as many of that squad as he can.

Thys even persuaded the 37-year-old midfield general Wilfried Van Moer to postpone (yet again) his international retirement. Once Belgium qualified, Van Moer said he was too old for Spain, but such is his influence on the side that Thys insisted he thought again.

Even when Van Moer plays only half a game, as he did against France when Belgium's 2-0 win clinched their place in Spain, he gives the team its style and shape. When he is absent altogether, as he was when Belgium later lost 3-0 to Holland in Rotterdam, the side lacks craft and direction.

Thus midfield has given Thys his biggest headaches, especially as the 1980 captain, Julian Cools, has played his last international; Anderlecht's Ludo Coeck has again been troubled by injury; and the versatile René Vandereycken has been playing this season for Genoa in Italy.

If he can establish a settled unit here, Thys

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has forwards who can score at the highest level. Erwin Vandenberg, winner of the European "Golden Boot" award two years ago, is still a regular marksman, as is the prolific Jan Ceulemans, who agreed to stay at home until after the World Cup, but will then be the target for several top European clubs.

In 1980, Belgium relied a great deal on these two, even though Vandenberg had a poor European Championship. Since then, they have uncovered a valuable attacker in Antwerp's Alex Czerniatynski, a 21-year-old right winger born in Belgium of Polish parents. He made one goal and scored the other against France.

Czerniatynski kept his place for the final group match against Holland, but the sending off in Rotterdam of sweeper Walter Meeuws means a suspension is imminent and could affect Belgium's back four in the intervening time.

They would like to maintain the defensive line which served them well in Italy. Full backs Eric Gerets (a colleague of Meeuws at Liege) and Michel Renquin (now with Anderlecht) are still automatic choices, as is the stopper, Luc Millecamps.

There had to be a change in goal when Jean-Marie Pfaff was given a three-month suspension for allegedly assaulting a linesman, but he returned to keep a clean sheet against France in Brussels, and can again expect to be regarded as his country's number one 'keeper ahead of Michel Preud'homme.

Belgium are known on the continent as "Les Diables Rouges" — the Red Devils — but their World Cup record scarcely bears witness to that. Since 1954, they have appeared in only one of six World Cup finals, and that was in Mexico when they were beaten by the host nation and did not survive the group stage.

And although Belgium entered for all three pre-war World Cups, including the inaugural competition in Uruguay in 1930, they never managed to get beyond the first round.

Perhaps that is where that inferiority complex came from. But if there was a turning point, maybe it came in Belgium's opening European Championship match against England in Turin two years ago.

With the score 1-1 the match was interrupted by a crowd riot, and when play resumed England's Tony Woodcock scored a goal which the referee initially allowed. Then a linesman intervened, the decision was changed to offside, and the point Belgium picked up ultimately enabled them to reach the final.

That experience in Italy has stood them in good stead, as their results in the qualifying group bear out. Whether they can go on to bigger and better things in Spain this summer, will depend on how much extra Thys can get out of his senior players. And if Van der Elst was to return from New York and re-adjust to the European game, that would give him an extra option in attack.



Jan Ceulemans

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LIVERPOOL

*Is the Great Force
on the Wane?*

asks Derek Henderson

When one considers what mountains Liverpool have ascended in the cause of English football over the past decade and beyond, even to question whether the climbers are beginning to lose their foothold, sound like rank effrontery.

After all, Liverpool rank alongside the fabulous Real Madrid, and Bayern Munich among the all-time greats of European football in the modern era.

Three European Cup triumphs in the space of five years (broken rudely in successive seasons by those other English interlopers Nottingham Forest) bear testimony to the dominance of football here and abroad by the surging reds of Merseyside.

But all good things come to an end, even in that hotbed of soccer. And there have been clear signs this seasons that in undergoing essential transformation from one side to a successor, the joints are decidedly creaking.

When a new face like Swansea can steal away from the North with a point though barely used to First Division ways, and others like a re-vamped Manchester United and a Keegan-inspired Southampton can take both points, the followers of Anfield can be forgiven for thinking that things are not quite as they were.

What is wrong at Anfield, if indeed anything is wrong? Is it just that the new signings are taking time to adjust? Or is it that we have all become just too blasé about Liverpool's continuing, amazing success down the years, and have come to expect it as the norm?

It could be a little of each. There is little doubt that the 'new boy' in goal, Bruce Grobbelaar has not yet settled down. And is this hardly surprising?

Stepping into the boots worn between those Anfield posts with such distinction for years by the great Ray Clemence has been one of soccer's most unenviable tasks.

The understanding Clemence had with his fellow defenders Phil Thompson, Phil Neal and Alan Kennedy was near-perfection.

Players like Ian Rush, Mark Lawrenson and Howard Gayle cannot become super-stars overnight. Their predecessors had to work at it, gradually shaping themselves into a famous, fighting unit with the confidence to take on all comers, whoever they were, whatever the place, and whatever the circumstances.

Bob Paisley has not been heralded as one of the outstanding of English post-war managers for nothing. The way he inherited, and moulded the Liverpool side after the retirement of Bill Shankly, was nothing short of a footballing miracle.

He knows only too well that the process of transformation is often painful.

Liverpool's whole approach to the game has been founded on the bed-rock of patience, so there is no suggestion that there will be anything resembling a panic at Anfield while the problems are working themselves out.



KENNY DALGLISH

Liverpool have already progressed to the quarter-finals of the European Cup, giving plenty of warning to all comers that they intend to hold on to the trophy they won for the third time in the spring when they beat Real Madrid by a single goal in Paris.

And when we talk about Liverpool falling short of the high standards they have set for themselves, we are not discussing disasters like the possibility of relegation. What we are discussing is the worrying example of a team lying ninth or tenth — something which for many clubs would be a very healthy, satisfactory state of affairs.

I share the view of Denis Law that he wouldn't care to bet against Liverpool for the championship — even in this changeover stage.

Phil Thompson and his team may not be on top of the world currently.

But the foundations are being quietly laid at Liverpool for a team to go on and emulate the glory days of the past.

Yes, at Anfield, it's a question of patience, the virtue they all know about...



THE EARLY YEARS

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THE ART OF CAPTAINCY

By JOHN DEVEY

Professionalism and captaincy—The qualities that go to make a good captain—The ideal position the captain should occupy on the field—Archie Hunter—The value of tact—Defensive tactics—Dennis Hodgetts and Allen—The English Cup Semi-final of 1894-5—The Villa v Corinthians, and Mr. C. B. Fry's comment on the match—Signalling—Players and temperament

The question of captaincy receives far too little attention in modern football. Very often, I fear, the management of a team give the matter a minimum of consideration; they seem to think that all a captain has to do is to spin a coin at the beginning of the game, make his choice of ends, and then his afternoon's work is done. But those of us who recall some of the grand leaders of old know that those two points were regarded by them as among the most insignificant duties they were called upon to perform. Some of the old leaders had a lofty conception of their duties, and when one recalls the influence they exerted upon the teams they led, it seems inexplicable that the high office should have come to be so lightly regarded. But the work of the football captain may mean much or it may mean little — that depends upon the man who fills the office. Speaking broadly, however, one is forced to express regret that professional clubs, who are prepared to spend unlimited sums in the acquiring of men, should be so indifferent to the circumstances which go so far to ensure loyalty and enthusiastic co-operation amongst the players on the field.

Singularly enough, this short-coming is general. The impression prevails — of course, there are notable exceptions — that almost any member of the team is good enough for a leader, provided that he possesses a reasonable experience. No greater fallacy was ever propounded. In the early days the choice of captain was due to seniority, ability, or geniality. Often the selection was due to all three, and no happier combination could be imagined. The advent of professionalism altered all this, and the result is that, instead of the average football captain being a real factor in the control of the team, he is largely a player with an official title and nothing more. The majority of professional footballers would endorse this, and

probably regret it at the same time, because it is not calculated to produce that enthusiasm which, when fully roused, goes far to carry an eleven on to victory. There will be a reaction some day, but it cannot be denied that the present-day captain is not playing the part that his official capacity should entitle him to play.

The captain should be the mouthpiece of the team; it is necessary for the welfare of the players and of the club generally that he should be their mouthpiece, for, after all, the interests of players and committee are identical. The captain should be proud of his men; and the men should be proud of their captain. They should look up to him. It is not necessary that the captain should be chosen merely because he is a hard worker, and yet that is in the case of many clubs the basis of selection. It is important that the captain should be able to set an example to his men in this respect, but it may happen that he is not physically fitted to outshine all his rivals in respect of hard work. A man may be a great captain and yet lack the power to rank as the greatest worker. You play a captain for the manifestation of his brain power; it is conceivable that a man may be invaluable as a captain when he is no longer the most sprightly member of the eleven.

You want the office of captain to be invested with a certain sense of dignity. The captain should be the brainiest man in the eleven; he should be looked up to by both management and players alike.

There are two excellent positions for the captain to occupy — centre-half and centre-forward — but the ideal position for the leader of a team is centre-half. He is there in close touch both with attack and defence, and he can control the game perfectly, because he sees everything that is hap-

continued overleaf

pening. But it was remarkable how Archie Hunter, a centre-forward, used to get into touch with his defence. You could often see him giving them a helping hand, and not only helping them but inspiring the defence. He seemed to get back by instinct when anything was likely to go wrong. I have never seen any man — and I have seen all the great League captains — exercise the same influence on a side that Archie Hunter did. Of course, he was favoured by condition and environment.

Archie Hunter came from Scotland when the game in the Midlands was in its infancy, and he was a hero in everyone's eyes. The players looked up to him as they never looked up to any man who came later. But he was a grand leader, and his captaincy won almost as many games as his executive skill. I daresay present-day players who do not recognise the conditions as we who knew them are able to do may feel inclined to think that too much adulation is heaped upon some of the heroes of the past, but, today, captaincy is practically a lost art if you compare it as it was in the days of Archie Hunter. But while a captain is better placed at centre-half or centre-forward, a good captain at outside-left, or in goal, would be infinitely preferable to a moderate captain in the most favoured position.

One great difficulty a captain has to deal with is the attitude of a man who has made a high-class reputation. If he has to perform in a big match, say the English Cup Final, or an International encounter, or any special game, his attitude is all that a captain need desire. But in an ordinary game, one in which there is nothing special at stake, he is apt to put on airs and to flout the authority of the captain. The "skipper" then has to try to induce such a one to drop such conduct by appealing to his temperament. If that appeal should fail, then sterner measures have to be adopted. I have more than once advocated the claims of a player of less ability in preference to a player of distinction on account of the imposs-

ibility of getting good results with such a man in the team. There is no necessity for any man to play to the gallery merely because the match in which he is engaged is not an English Cup Final or a game of special importance. It seems to me all the more contemptible that a player who must know better should be guilty of conduct which amounts to insubordination and is provocative of insubordination in others. I have had experience of this. The last four years of my captaincy of Aston Villa was the most trying period of my life. There comes a time when you cannot yourself do quite so much as you were once able to accomplish, and that is the time that the yearning for your old maximum power comes to you. You want a little help yourself then, and you do not always get it. That is a trying time indeed for a captain.

A captain should never be dictatorial; he should strive to obtain a community of interest among the players under his charge. It is not a bad thing for a captain to go to a man and say, "Now, you use me as your tool. We should all be tools to one another; all should be tools in turn. Every time you have the ball and cannot get away with it, I am there to help you out of a difficulty; use me as your tool. If I have the ball, you be my tool."

An indifferent captain is better than several captains on the field. Nothing is more disastrous than a conflict of authority. The captain should be in sole control; and no one should venture to usurp his prerogative. I believe in a captain consulting his players. You may agree with their conclusions or not, but I believe in soliciting their opinions. If your ideas are strengthened as the result of an interchange of opinion, well and good; if the result is in the opposite direction, then no harm has been done. It may be that things have been presented to you in quite a different light to that in which you had previously viewed them. At the same time, it is gratifying to all the men to know that their opinion has been asked. It is a nice feeling for the youngest man in the team to think

continued on page 8

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continued from page 6

"He appreciates my opinion, although I am the youngest player on the side." He feels flattered, and will play better football if he thinks his skipper is interested in him than he would if he held the idea that he was regarded as a mere cypher in the team.

We want to look deep down into football; there is too much surface watching done. If we look right into the science of football — and it is a more wonderful science than most people think — we can detect deep schemes. The spectators may not see them — nay, they cannot see them. The captain has to watch the game most critically. He sees, perhaps, at a certain time that his opponents have the run of the ball. He has to bring every ounce of intelligence to bear upon the process of staving off the daring and impetuous attacks which are being made upon his position. He has to counteract those attacks, and it often happens that if he does so diplomatically he converts his side from one which is being overrun into a winning team. Just when the tide is flowing against his side, he grasps the situation, and then we see an example of defensive combination. The inside-forwards silently fall back and help the halves, but the two outside men and the centre are ever ready to dash off and maybe, find a weak place in the opposing defence. They do not waste their energies; they conserve them, but they keep the other defenders playing all the time while the hostile forwards are working at twice the pace that a vanguard normally does. But the defence is so systematic that the whirlwind attack gradually dies away, and then the side which has been content to remain on the defensive gradually raises the siege, and it becomes their turn to attack. The game is won, but few of the crowd can do full justice to the tactics which made victory probable.

I can recall many occasions in the seasons when Aston Villa won the League championship when diplomacy won us games in which our opponents were excessively dangerous. We would be occupied, in resisting impetuous attacks when suddenly one of our men would get off; in would come a flying centre, the ball would come to John Campbell, he would send in one of his brilliant shots, and the whole position would be changed. We seldom received the credit for this to which we were entitled; it was not realised that we were following a carefully thought-out plan of campaign; sometimes we were told that we had scored "a lucky goal." There is more method in some of these lucky goals than some of the critics realise. You have all watched games in which one side has manifested infinitely more devil for a given period than they have shown in any other portion of the match. It is the captain's duty to watch the play of his opponents during that period, and if he can cope with it he will have broken the backbone of that team. Indifferent captaincy at such a time

would probably mean a lost game; and yet the position of captain is one which many would treat lightly!

Here is an anecdote showing the veneration, almost the awe, in which the greatest captain I have ever known was held. When I was captain of St. George's, I was playing in a match, Birmingham v Cheshire, at Crewe, in which I was inside-right, with Archie Hunter in the centre, and Dennis Hodgetts and A. Allen on the left. Allen, a beautiful dribbler, came sailing through the defence and went for goal. Suddenly Archie called for a pass, but Allen, seeing what a great chance he had, went through and scored. As we were walking up to the centre, I heard Hodgetts say, "Well played, Al., but didn't you hear the captain ask for the ball? You ought to have done what he said, you know." Such absolute confidence had Hodgetts in the judgment of his skipper that, although a goal had been scored, he could not get it out of his head that nine times out of ten Archie would have been right. Archie, of course, was quite content; he would be the last man in the world to desire his players to be automata. I give the incident, not to prove that Allen was wrong, but just to illustrate the hold which Archie had on the men under him. Do you think such a thing would happen in regard to any First League captain of the present day? I trow not. Ah, what a delightful thing it would be for a captain — and for the team — if the prevailing sentiment among the men was "Well, he is our captain; if we can help him we will." A good captain can settle a team from a confused side into a well-balanced set of players. The captain should work largely by force of will. He has to give instructions, but the good captain never shouts and bawls at his men. Sometimes he has to be more emphatic than at other times. I remember a case in which one of our backs would persist in kicking straight up the field. We had fleet wing-men; but he was giving them no chance. Usually he kicked straight to the other backs, and, of course, the ball was returned, and we never had an opening made for us. At last I had to get very emphatic. "Kick obliquely," I kept telling him, and at last he did so. Our fleet wingers got going; and we did well.

Even in a great game a little diplomacy may work wonders. The finest match I ever took part in was the Semi-final for the English Cup at Blackburn in 1894-5, when Aston Villa beat Sunderland. Geordie Russell, left half-back, had a very awkward wing to face in Miller and Gillespie. Russell played well, but in the second half he realised that he had more than he could do, and he kept appealing to his inside-forward to fall back and assist him. Now I fancy that the man appealed to had quite as much as he could manage, and these continual cries from the half-back seemed to worry him considerably. Still the appeals came, and at last Hodgetts got rather out of temper and

told the half-back to stop worrying him. I, therefore exhorted them, "Now, lads, don't play into the hands of our opponents like this. You must not take one another's remarks so seriously. I will help you." I said to Russell, and, turning to Hodgetts, who was just off with the ball, I remarked, "Now, Dennis, get on and show them how to play football." I could see Hodgetts literally jump again. He put fresh spirit into his play, and that game was won.

I daresay I have said some hard things without meaning them. I often used to try to get Spencer fully roused, because he never plays so magnificently as when he is on his mettle. I always used to like to see opponents ruffle Howard just a little. It takes a great deal to even ruffle him slightly, but when ruffled just a little he used to play his greatest game.

Here is a good story illustrating the value of advice. I call it a good story because it is rather against me, in a sense. I was the captain, and we were playing against the Corinthians. It was towards the close of my career, and I felt the strain of the hard game. James Cowan suddenly said to me, "Why don't you go on the wing and let Athersmith come inside?" I thought it a good suggestion, and took it, and almost immediately gave Athersmith a nice opening. He raced through at a speed which I could not then have shown, and scored. Mr. C. B. Fry, in commenting on the match, spoke of the masterly judgment of John Devey in bringing Athersmith inside, whereas it was solely Cowan's idea. Certainly I made the opportunity for Athersmith, but it would never have come about had not Cowan made the suggestion he did.

By the exercise of discretion the captain may train his men to promptly interpret the word he may utter, or any action he may go through in the form of signalling. When danger threatens, a motion of the arm may send back both inside-forwards to strengthen the half-back line, and the casual onlooker marvels at the manoeuvre. It is the science of the game, and a captain who has studied football from all its offensive and defensive bearings is able to take advantage which the moment may suggest. But first-class players do what is required naturally; it is part of their football education to watch how the game is going.

It is not essential that all the instruction should come from the captain; indeed, it is far better that

the men, following the advice of their skipper should institute a system whereby exchange of thought can be readily understood. Secret signalling in this sense is invaluable, and it has seldom been carried into effect with more striking result than in the case of the famous Preston North End eleven which carried the country by storm in consequence of the unison with which they worked.

Another important function which devolves upon the captain is the correction of any misapprehension which may exist as the outcome of injudicious criticism from the crowd. The tendency of spectators is to judge a player by exactly what catches the eye. A captain who knows what's what should lay himself out to correct disparagement from the onlookers by offering personal encouragement to the player concerned.

A captain should make a point of encouraging the players on every possible occasion. He should try, too, to study the individual temperaments of all the men under his care. It is here that the complexity of a captain's work lies. He has ten players to deal with, and there may be ten altogether different temperaments among them. There is the hot-headed player; he is an easy man to manage, because you get at the bottom of him at once. Then you have the sulky player; he is a very different individual to deal with; you never get at the bottom of him. Still, an encouraging word is not often wasted, even on the sulkiest of players. Football brings out a man's characteristics very pronouncedly. If you see a man sticking closely to the ball and never giving his colleagues a chance, you may rely upon it that that man is a selfish man off the field. If, on the other hand, you come across a player who is ready to do anything for you, and delights in making openings for you, you may depend upon it that he is good-tempered and unselfish.

But whatever a man is, you have to so shape your conduct as to get the best out of him. After all, we are ruled by our temperaments. Sometimes a man can master his temperament, but often-times it is too strong for him.

Having captained Aston Villa for eight of the most prosperous years the club has known, my observations upon the captain's art may not be uninteresting. I am convinced that the relations between club and captain on the lines I have outlined would prove an inestimable boon to all concerned.



Memory Lane

GRAHAM TURNER

GRAHAM TURNER, the player manager of Shrewsbury, has performed mostly in the centre of defence for Wrexham, Chester and Shrewsbury. He took over as manager in 1978 and the following season lifted the club into the Second Division.

"I must have played more than 700 matches during my career but it did not take me long to pick the highlight.

"I had not been manager here at Shrewsbury for more than three months when we received a home draw with Manchester City in the fourth round of the FA Cup.

"Actually when the draw was first made we might have been matched with any one of three sides because it was a hard winter and some teams were having difficulty wading through a host of postponements.

"Eventually it all sorted itself out and Malcolm Allison and his team filled with internationals were on their way to Gay Meadow.

"There is something about a big cup match which brings the crowds to Shrewsbury. I'm not sure where they all go for league matches but I often think we could fill our ground three times over for glamour matches against top opposition.

"We were in the Third Division at the time and I don't think Manchester City could have relished coming to Gay Meadow at the best of times.

"What made it worse from their point of view was the state of our pitch. Snow had fallen heavily in the week building up to the game and it needed an army of volunteers to clear it all and then put down sand and straw to make it playable.

"During the week we had come under the spotlight. The national press and television suddenly started to take an interest in us and for a few days we were at the centre of a lot of speculation. Perhaps an upset was foreseen and anything involving Allison is always news.

"We had City watched twice before the big day and more than once we studied a recording of one of their recent matches. There was not much we did not know about them by the time they ran out on to our pitch to a crescendo of noise from the packed crowd.

"City gave us a few scares early on but we survived and grew rapidly in confidence when we realised there was nothing to fear.



"Sammy Chapman was a key man for us that day. Unlike many of our youngsters he had experienced the big occasion during his career at Nottingham Forest and so it was to him that we looked when the City pressure was at it fiercest. He told us not to be nervous. The pressure was on City.

"We took his words to heart and City were never able to come to terms with us or the frozen conditions. Paul Maguire scored in the first half and Chapman made sure with the second.

"Needless to say when the final whistle went and we had won 2-0, there were incredible scenes. Fans spilled on to the pitch and there was champagne flowing for a day or two afterwards.

"The Match of the Day cameras were there to record our great moment and to emphasise Allison's embarrassment at losing to a team two divisions below.

"But I must give him credit for coming into our dressing room soon after the game to congratulate us. It takes a big man to do that.

"Nowadays at Shrewsbury we are seeing several First Division sides at Gay Meadow. In recent years we have met Ipswich, Wolves and West Bromwich here but for me there will never be a day quite like the one when Malcolm Allison brought his stars to Shropshire."

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No. 14



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85. When Hereford joined the Football League in 1972 who did they replace?
86. Who are the Seals?
87. Who are the Hornets?
88. Between them how many times have the 2 Manchester clubs won the F.A. Cup?
89. When Martin Chivers left Tottenham in 1976 which club did he join?
90. How many Football League clubs topped 1 million supporters at home last season?
91. Which club had the lowest average home gates in the First Division last season?
92. Which League club has the smallest pitch?

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ARCHIE GEMMILL PROFILE



Of all the many hundreds of goals one sees in a lifetime of watching soccer, a few — just a few — always stick in the memory.

One such effort was scored in the 1978 World Cup Finals in Argentina by little Archie Gemmill, that strutting bundle of midfield energy whose expert attentions have been devoted towards Birmingham City's cause in the past seasons.

In fact, it was so spectacular that the visiting journalists voted it the most memorable of the finals. It came during that thrilling game with Holland when Scotland wanted a miracle in the shape of a victory by three clear goals to surge through to the later stages.

It seemed a hopeless task in view of the fact that the Scots under the guidance of manager Ally McLeod who talked a little too much for his own good, had been crushed by Peru and shared a dismal draw with Iran.

But when, after 68 minutes, Gemmill ran through a hesitant Dutch defence and planted a smashing cross-shot into the net to give the Scots a 3-1 lead, even the Scottish newspapermen rose to their feet and punched the air.

Alas, the Dutch came back with a goal, and though Scotland won 3-2, it was not enough. But Gemmill had made his mark and helped his country to salvage a little pride on what turned out to be a disastrous trip to South America.

Gemmill made nearly 70 appearances for St. Mirren before moving to Preston and it was at Deepdale where he first began to make a name for himself.

He turned in one short of a century of appearances for North End before the duo of Brian Clough and Peter Taylor, fully realising the impact he could have on the midfield operation at Derby County, took him to the Baseball Ground more than 10 years ago.

It was Gemmill's industry and tireless tenacity which played a large part in the Rams winning the League championship with a fine team which included the likes of Roy McFarland, Colin Todd and Alan Durban, not to mention Kevin Hector and his sharpshooting.

Gemmill went on to make over 250 League appearances for Derby and it was no surprise when Clough and Taylor took over the reins at Nottingham Forest, they made sure that Gemmill soon joined them.

But there came a parting of the ways when Birmingham City manager Jim Smith, needing someone of Archie's boundless energy and skill in the midfield, to be the lynch-pin in a promotion drive out of Division II at St. Andrews, put in a bid of £150,000 and found it was acceptable.

It seemed a very modest price to pay for such experience and Smith never regretted it. But Clough did — and he later admitted that letting the Scot go from the City Ground was one of the biggest mistakes he ever made.

Gemmill duly helped Birmingham to win back a place in the First Division — and keep it.

As the hair recedes, he and others like Todd — his old colleague at Derby — and Frank Worthington, had to endure taunts of Blues being the 'Golden Oldies'.

But however good your youngsters, experience such as theirs is vital to any aspiring side's cause, particularly in the harsh realms of the First Division where know-how is so essential.

Gemmill realises now that he is nearing the twilight of his career, but when the time comes for Jock Stein to name his final party for the World Cup in Spain, many are expecting Gemmill's name to be included.

He would be an invaluable man to have along even if only for the ride — and emergencies.

The little man with the high-pitched voice has given as lot of pleasure in his years south of the border.

It would be a fitting reward if he were able to make one last World Cup appearance, and maybe even produce that stunning accuracy which won his goal in Argentina so much acclaim when there was little else to shout about from the British point of view!

DEREK HENDERSON



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Letters to the Editor

As all readers will be aware the views expressed by our writers are not always the views of the publishers and we always give our readers the opportunity to answer misleading and unsubstantiated comments that prove to be untrue.

C/o Belize Road,
London NW6,
7.12.81

Dear Sir,

My attention has been drawn to a recent edition of 'On Target' which carried an article headed 'Happy Wanderers' by Stuart Latham which dealt with non-League Football fans.

Being one of the persons named in the piece and having the acquaintance of three other named fans I take great exception to Mr. Latham's words.

He states we are members of the '92 Club' — this is a lie — we would never join such an organisation. He further states, and I quote 'they go — not for the football', this is pure libel. If it wasn't for the game we would not be there at all!

Our hobby is simple, we have no allegiance to any one team but prefer to select an interesting match being played on a previously un-visited ground.

We have never met Mr. Latham and I would suggest in future he checks his facts or just sticks to writing articles about Tony Ince.

Yours,
A.P. Smith.

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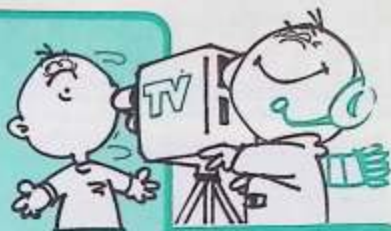
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SIMON INGLIS



light hearted look at Football



I went up to Glasgow recently. Nice place, not half as bad as some would have you believe. They really are soccer mad across the border, because everywhere you go you see soccer pitches. Not your average green grass pitch, but funny brown shaded ones. I suppose they use them so much it goes that colour.

My first call was to Ibrox, home of mighty Rangers. Even outside the ground with only ten minutes to kick-off, there was a sizeable crowd watching a youth game being played on yet another brown pitch just by the stadium.

And what a stadium! In case you hadn't heard, it's been completely rebuilt on three sides, with three, identical all-seater stands. All very impressive — Jimmy Hill would drool at the facilities — but I was very disappointed. It was like playing on the moon. No atmosphere.

Relief came when a man came into the stand and shouted to his friend, "Jimmy!" Almost the entire male population seated there turned round!

But it is a funny game up in Scotland. Did you know, for example, that most Scottish people are, on average, smaller than we English? Something to do with harsh economic conditions, climate, nutrition I'm reliably told by a doctor. That's why there are so many fiery little Scots in the mould of Busby, Docherty, Bremner, Gemmill and Hartford.

There are other funny things. The goalposts are all square, for example. Now

that can make a hell of a difference to a shot hitting the post.

In England a shot that would go in off a post would rebound out in Scotland. They also have two substitutes in League matches, a la Continental, and still show red and yellow cards. The goalkeepers in the game I saw wore red and yellow jerseys, not our favoured green. And at half-time, when the other scores were announced, it was "Aberdeen nothing, Celtic nothing". No nil or zero.

But what was hardest to adapt to were the players' names. They all sounded the same — Johnston, Johnstone; Donald, McDonald; Ally, Alex, Willie, Andy, etc.

To complete my visit I walked over to the shrine of Scottish football, Hampden Park. Close by I passed a relic, the home of defunct Third Lanark F.C., now a landscaped running track. It's no wonder they went out of business, not only so close to Ibrox, Celtic and Partick Thistle, but within a goalkick's distance of Hampden, home of another club, Queen's Park.

Hampden was a great disappointment, with its peeling paint, rotten woodwork and general aura of gloom. With a modern stadium like Ibrox, plus Celtic Park, Aberdeen and a few others, all the Scots need do is refurbish Hampden and they could host a World Cup with honour. For once, I'm being serious.

Well Jimmy, how about it?



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John Robertson

Scottish Wing Marauder

by Derek Henderson

A Nottingham Forest team without the familiar chunky figure of John Robertson on the left-hand touchline, would be a very strange sight indeed.

For a dozen seasons, the winger has been at the City Ground. And when history judges Forest's two remarkable European Cup successes in consecutive years, the part played in both of them by Robertson won't be anything other than prominent.



For in the first final against Malmö in Munich, it was his long cross which winged its way over the goal to the far post for Trevor Francis to score the only goal.

And 12 months later, in Madrid, it was Robertson's incursion into Hamburg's penalty area on his right foot which produced the only goal and kept the top European trophy in this country.

Now Robertson eagerly awaits the summer and the call from Scotland to work his particular brand of magic on their behalf in the World Cup finals in Spain.

That would set the seal on a career which had its roots in a nursery team by the name of Drumchapel Amateurs which also has a claim to fame in the production of two other famous Scottish internationals of the past decade — Asa Hartford and John Wark.

It was when Robertson came south and joined Forest that he embarked on his League career. But it is fair to say that not until the dual arrival of Brian Clough and Peter Taylor in the fair city of Nottingham did Robertson's talent begin to be harnessed to its best advantage.

The pair encouraged Robertson to do his own thing, be individualistic, hug the touchline, demand the ball at his feet, and wait for him to do the rest.

Most full-backs who have figured they know how to handle this mercurial attacker have gone into the game assured that Robertson will invariably be at his most dangerous when he cuts inside.

What they couldn't know was exactly WHEN he is going to do it. And this is what makes the player so lethal.

He is deceptively bulky and doesn't look like a man who can wriggle easily into a crowded penalty area. But his close control and timing is so slick that he often appears less dangerous than he really is, and by this time it is too late from the defending side's point of view.

There has been a much-publicised rift between Robertson and management this season. It is almost certain that part of this was due to their request of him last season to concentrate more upon a midfield role which is foreign to natural attacking ability on the flanks.

One other reason may well have been the stream of players who have left the City Ground for other clubs, men who had a rapport with the Scot on and off the field.

While these others have left to seek further fame and fortune elsewhere, it has been hard for Robertson to readjust while Forest have undergone the transformation of rebuilding.

He lost the proximity of Frank Gray at left-back, a fellow Scottish international with whom he worked up a fine understanding.

Others like Francis, Kenny Burns, Tony Woodcock, Larry Lloyd and Martin O'Neill have departed and the few survivors include Peter Shilton and Robertson.



But as the winger begins to enjoy a new lease of life again in his natural position this season, and with the World Cup coming up, his differences seem to have been put behind him.

If there are one or two individuals who can lift Scotland in Spain by doing something special on the day, then John Robertson is certainly among them.

And one or two defenders — wherever they hail from — are going to be distinctly uncomfortable when next June comes around.

COUNTY CAMERA SNAP SHOTS!



.....and the stories behind them PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY FLNP.

TOP: County substitute Micky Wardrobe fires in a shot at goal, during the second-half of our recent game with Tranmere Rovers at Edgeley Park.

BELOW: County's Oshor Williams in the act of rescuing a late equaliser, with this neat lob over the Tranmere 'keeper Scott Endersby, a minute from time.

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DEAN EMERSON

NAME: Dean Emerson
BIRTHPLACE: Salford
BIRTHDATE: 27.12.62
HEIGHT: 5'8"
WEIGHT: 10st 8lbs

MARRIED: No
PREVIOUS CLUBS: None

TEAM SUPPORTED AS A BOY:
Manchester United
BEST GROUND PLAYED ON:
Wrexham
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO:
George Best
BEST GAME PLAYED IN: For
County at Bournemouth 13.2.82

FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Daily
Mirror

HOBBIES: Playing Pool, Running

FOOTBALL SUPERSTITIONS: None
FAVOURITE COUNTRY VISITED:
Holland

THE WAY I RELAX: Listening to
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BEST GOAL SCORED: Yet to score
it.

FAVOURITE COLOUR: Red

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Autograph

Dean Emerson

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LANCS LEAGUE SCENE

DIVISION ONE FIXTURES SEASON 1981-82

1981			F-A
Sat.	Aug. 29	*Morecambe Reserves (Maloney 2, Power)	2-2
Sat.	Sep. 5	Warrington 'A' (Power, Smith)	2-3
FRI.	SEP. 11	PORT VALE RESERVES	0-1
Sat.	SEP. 13	Tranmere Rovers 'A'	0-1
Sat.	SEP. 19	MANCHESTER UNITED 'A' (Power)	1-2
FRI.	SEP. 25	Port Vale Reserves (Maloney 2)	2-1
Sat.	OCT. 2	CARLISLE UNITED RESERVES	0-1
FRI.	OCT. 23	Barrow Reserves	0-2
Sat.	OCT. 31	ROCHDALE RESERVES	0-4
FRI.	NOV. 6	Rochdale Reserves (Beech)	0-2
Sat.	NOV. 14	Wigan Athletic Reserves	1-4
Sat.	NOV. 28		0-2

1982				
Sat.	Jun. 2	Liverpool 'A' (Campbell)	.....	1-2
Sat.	Jun. 23	Vauxhall (C.S.C. 1, Woodcock 3, Wardrobe, Power)	.....	5-0
Sat.	Jun. 30	Macclesfield Town (C.S.C. 2)	.....	0-3
Sat.	Feb. 6	Manchester United 'A' (Wardrobe, Campbell)	.....	2-1
Sat.	Feb. 15	Chorley Reserves (Leigh 2)	.....	2-3
Sat.	Feb. 20	Bolton W. 'A' (Leigh 4, Stafford, Wardrobe)	.....	8-2
Sat.	Feb. 27	Chester 'A'	.....	
Sat.	Mar. 6	Altrincham Reserves	.....	
Sat.	Mar. 13	Carlisle United Reserves	.....	
FRI.	MAR. 19	CHORLEY RESERVES	.....	
FRI.	APR. 2	EVERTON 'A'	.....	
FRI.	APR. 10	Everton 'A'	.....	
FRI.	APR. 23	CHESTER 'A'	.....	
FRI.	MAY 7	WIGAN ATHLETIC RESERVES	.....	

Home Matches in capitals
To be played: Warrington 'A', Barrow Reserves, Oldham Athletic Reserves,
BOLTON WANDERERS 'A', TRANMERE ROVERS 'A', LIVERPOOL 'A'.
* Morecambe Reserves withdrawn from league, match void.

TEAM CHECK

STOCKPORT COUNTY

(Sky Blue/White/Black)

- 1 BRIAN LLOYD
- 2 JOHN RUTTER
- 3 STEVE SHERLOCK
- 4 DEAN EMERSON
- 5 ANDY THORPE
- 6 NIGEL SMITH
- 7 OSHOR WILLIAMS
- 8 MIKE POWER
- 9 MARTIN FOWLER
- 10 TERRY PARK
- 11 TONY COYLE
- 12

WIGAN ATHLETIC

(Yellow/Green)

- 1 ROY TUNKS
- 2 DAVID GLENN
- 3 ALEX CRIBLEY
- 4 MARK WIGNALL
- 5 LARRY LLOYD
- 6 COLIN METHVEN
- 7 MIKE QUINN
- 8 CLIVE EVANS
- 9 LES BRADD
- 10 PETER HOUGHTON
- 11 EAMON O'KEEFE
- 12 JIMMY WESTON

Subject to alteration

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MR. M.J. HEATH (Stoke-on-Trent)

LINESMEN:

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MR. G.W. PREECE (Walsall) — Yellow Flag.



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County scorers

Visitors scorers

Half-time score:

Attendance:

Bookings:

Man of the Match:

Substitutions:

Notes:

.....

.....

WHERE THEY WERE SCORED!

County	Visitors
CHEADLE END	
RAILWAY END	

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